JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At Large, Seat 11

1. NAME: The Honorable Alison Renee Lee

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

1701 Main Street, Suite 324

Post Office Box 192 Columbia, SC 29202

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

803-576-1765

2. Date of Birth: 1958

Place of Birth:

3.

Washington, DC Yes

Are you a citizen of SC?

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married on May 3, 1986 Kenzil Franklin Summey. Never divorced; two children.
- Have you served in the military? Not Applicable 6.
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - Vassar College, 1975 to 1979, B.A.; (a)
 - Georgetown University, Summer school 1976; (b)
 - Tulane University Law School, 1979 to 1982, J.D.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
 - Texas, 1982; (a)
 - Louisiana, 1983; (b)
 - (c) SC, 1984.
- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - Vassar College: (a)

Student Advisor to Freshman Class of 1982

Cuba Field Study Trip

Vassar College Gospel Choir, business manager

Summer Jobs Coordinator, Office of Career Planning;

Tulane Law School (b)

Vice President Freshman Class (1979-80)

Best Oralist Freshman Moot Court Competition

National Appellate Moot Court Team (1980-81)

Mardi Gras Coalition

Tulane Moot Court Board (1981-1982)

Academic Affairs Representative Senior Class (1981-82)



Quarter Finalist Senior Appellate Competition (1982).

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

Conference/CLE Name

Date

Conference/CLE Name		
(a)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/00;
(b)	Ethics 2000	12/13/00;
(c)	Circuit Judges Conference	05/05/09;
(d)	SC Association for Justice	08/06/09;
(e)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/19/09;
(f)	SC Women Lawyers' Conference	09/30/09;
(g)	SC Bar Civil Law Update	01/22/10;
(h)	SC Bar Criminal Law Update	01/22/10;
(i)	Circuit Judges Association	05/05/10;
(j)	SC Association for Justice	08/05/10;
(k)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/18/10;
(1)	S.C Women Lawyers' Conference	10/22/10;
(m)	S.C Defense Trial Lawyers' Association	11/11/10;
(n)	Circuit Judges Conference	05/05/11;
(o)	SC Historical Society Colloqium	05/09/11;
(p)	US Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference	06/24/11;
(q)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/17/11;
(r)	SC Women Lawyers' Conference	10/21/11;
(s)	SC Bar Civil Law Update	01/20/12;
(t)	SC Criminal Law Update	01/20/12;
(u)	Circuit Judges Conference	05/02/12;
(v)	Association for Justice	08/02/12;
(w)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/22/12;
(x)	Defense Trial Lawyers Conference	11/08/12;
(y)	SC Bar Civil Law Update	01/25/13;
(z)	SC Bar Criminal Law Update	01/25/13;
(aa)	Circuit Judges Conference	05/03/13;
(bb)	US Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference	06/28/13.

- Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
 - (a) August 1985 Judicial CLE on Settling the Family Court Record on Appeal;
 - (b) September 1985 CLE Federal Court Practice: Pretrial Orders, Sanctions & Local Rules:
 - (c) November 1993 Drafting Criminal Laws under the Sentencing Classification Act in house CLE for Legislative Counsel;
 - (d) Bridge the Gap (May 1996, March 1997, May 1997, March 1998, May 1998) Practice Tips for the Administrative Law Judge Division;
 - (e) January 1997 CLE Update for the Administrative Law Judge Division;
 - (f) March 1998 SC Practice & Procedure Update: Rules of the Administrative Law Judge Division;
 - (g) May 1998 SC Women Lawyers' CLE panel discussion on What Works and What Doesn't;

- (h) February 2000 CLE Tips from the Bench: Circuit Court Motions/Appeals;
- (i) December 2002 CLE Lawyer Conduct/Ethics Civil Cases;
- (j) April 2003 SC Women Lawyer's CLE Effective Use of Exhibits at Trial;
- (k) October 2004 Black Lawyers' CLE panel on civility and ethics;
- (l) October 2005 CLE on Criminal and Trial Advocacy, panel discussion;
- (m) September 2006 Black Lawyers' CLE panel on tips from the bench;
- (n) December 2006 Municipal Association speaker on ethics.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

N/A

- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of Texas in 1982, currently inactive;
 - (b) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of Louisiana in 1983, currently inactive;
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1984;
 - (d) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 1984;
 - (e) Admitted to practice before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1985.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- 15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

Not rated to my knowledge.

- 22. Have you ever held judicial office?
 - (a) Administrative Law Judge, March 1, 1994-March 4, 1999;
 - (b) Circuit Court At Large, Seat 11, March 5, 1999-present.
- 23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
 - (a) <u>Chastain v. AnMed Health Foundation et al.</u>, (SC Cir. Court, Anderson Co. 2008), aff'd, 388 SC 170, 694 S.E.2d 541 (SC 2010).

The plaintiff brought a medical malpractice claim against the charitable hospital and its nurses. The plaintiff had to establish that the nurses were grossly negligent to obtain a verdict against them individually. After hearing the testimony during the course of the week, the jury returned a verdict against the hospital only. The jury specifically found that the nurses were not grossly negligent. The hospital was a charitable organization which, under the statutes, would only be liable up to \$300,000 per occurrence. Based upon post trial arguments, I reduced the \$1.54 million verdict to \$300,000. The plaintiff appealed claiming that there was more than one occurrence and therefore her damages should not have been limited. On appeal, the decision was affirmed.

(b) <u>Jordan et al. v. Holt et al.</u>, 96-CP-26-3792 (SC Cir. Court, Horry Co. 1999), aff'd

362 SC 201, 608 S.E.2d 129 (2005).

This was a non-jury trial in partners in a failed restaurant venture sought dissolution of the partnership, an accounting of the assets and claims for damages from the operation of the business. The trial lasted one week and involved voluminous documents, checks, records and photographs.

(c) <u>Graham v. Town of Latta, SC</u>, Docket No. 2008-CP-13-0376 and 0377 (SC Cir. Court, Dillon Co. 2012), currently on appeal.

The plaintiffs were homeowners whose property was flooded during a severe rain event. They sued the Town of Latta claiming it failed to properly maintain the sewage and rainwater drainage system. Additionally the plaintiffs alleged that problems with the pipes led to the overflow in their yard which caused the repeated flooding of the property. They sued claiming negligence, trespass and inverse condemnation. The town raised issues of immunity under the state's Tort Claims Act, which limits liability for a governmental agency. There were numerous motions relating to the immunity and the claims. I granted many of the motions, reserving the claim of negligence for the jury. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs.

(d) <u>State v. Tony Watson</u>, Docket No. 2010-GS-40-10224 (SC Cir. Court, Richland Co. 2012), currently on appeal.

Watson was charged with murder and filed a motion to determine his immunity from prosecution under the Protection of Persons and Property Act based upon the Castle Doctrine. After an evidentiary hearing, I ruled that he was entitled to immunity. The State has appealed.

(e) <u>Curtis v. SC</u>, Docket No. 99-CP-23-2463 (SC Cir. Court, Greenville Co. 2000).

Mr. Curtis sought to enjoin the state from enforcing a statute prohibiting the sale of urine in interstate commerce and to declare the statute unconstitutional.

- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No.
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. None.
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
 - (a) 1997, Candidate for Circuit Court At Large, Seat 10, qualified and nominated;
 - (b) 2003, Candidate for Court of Appeals, Seat 6, qualified, not nominated;
 - (c) 2004, Candidate for Court of Appeals, Seat 1, qualified, not nominated;
 - (d) 2008, Candidate for Court of Appeals, Seat 3, qualified and nominated;
 - (e) 2009, Candidate for Court of Appeals, Seat 5, qualified, not nominated.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? No.
- 28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.
- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. None.
- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state

- law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No.
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
- Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?
 - (a) <u>Lewis v. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control</u>, Docket No. 97-CP-46-01679 (SC Cir. Court, York Co.). Plaintiff sought injunctive relief to stay a case pending before me in my capacity as Administrative Law Judge. I was dismissed from the case on September 25, 1997.
 - (b) <u>Taylor v. Womble</u>, Docket No. 3:03-cv-03469 (Federal District Court, SC). Plaintiff, Ruben DeWayne Taylor, named me in a lawsuit, along with a number of other judges. I was never served, and the case was subsequently dismissed in April 2005.
 - (c) <u>Taylor v. First Citizens Bank Trust Company of SC</u>, Docket No. 05-05299 (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, SC). Plaintiff, Ruben DeWayne Taylor, sought to include in the bankruptcy proceeding any judgments issued by me as a circuit court judge. I was dismissed from the action on June 29, 2005.
 - (d) <u>Taylor v. United States</u>, Docket No. 3:05-cv-01113 (Federal District Court, District of SC). Plaintiff, Ruben DeWayne Taylor, named me in my capacity as circuit court judge. I was never served. The action was dismissed.
 - (e) <u>CitiMortgage, Inc. v. McQuatters, et al.</u>, Docket No. 2010-CP-32-01917 (SC Cir. Court, Lexington Co.). I was named in my capacity as a circuit court judge as a third party defendant by the Defendant, Joseph McQuatters, because he did not believe I had the authority as a judge to rule on matters in his case. I was dismissed from the action on January 14, 2013.
- 36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.
- 37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? Not applicable.
- 38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.?
 - I have a Facebook page I use to keep in touch with my family and non-lawyer friends. I do not discuss my position or any work related matters. My judicial position is not affected.
- 39. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by SC Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by SC Code § 2-17-10(14)? No.
- 40. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by SC Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No.

- 41. SC Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." None.
- 42. SC Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." None.
- 43. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.
- 44. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
- 45. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
- 46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
- 49. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) Richland County Bar Association;
 - (b) Black Lawyer Association;
 - (c) SC Women Lawyers Association, Board of Directors since 2010;
 - (d) American Bar Association:
 - (e) National Conference of State Trial Judges.
- 50. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
 - (a) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority;
 - (b) Columbia Chapter, The Links, Incorporated, Vice-President and President;
 - (c) Moles, Inc.;
 - (d) St. Peter's Catholic Church, Finance Committee.
- 51. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

I have no additional information to provide at this point.

- 52. Referenes:
 - (a) Adam Davis, First Citizens Bank Vice President

First Citizens Bank 1230 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 931-1875

- (b) Deacon John Stetar 267 Rushing Wind Drive Irmo, SC 29063 (803) 732-8526
- (c) Lillian Jones 1909 Pennsylvania Avenue Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 256-9187
- (d) Calvin Elam
 Elam Financial Group
 1523 Richland Street
 Columbia, SC
 (803) 799-9503
- (e) Traci Y. Cooper, Ed.D. 120 Stonebrook Drive Blythewood, SC 29016 (803) 231-6842 (office)
- (f) Loretta Price 3 Sesqui Court Columbia, SC 29223 (803) 865-1335

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: Alison Renee Lee

Date: August 6, 2013

ALISON RENEE LEE

141 SILVER LAKE CIRCLE COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29212

October 7, 2013

Hand Delivered

Jane O. Shuler
Chief Counsel
Judicial Merit Selection Commission
Room 104 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Jane,

Recently, it was brought to my attention that I omitted an answer to Question 14 on the Personal Data Questionnaire. Apparently, I misread the question and omitted an answer on the belief that the question did not apply to me. Attached please find my answer to Question 14. I apologize for any inconvenience to you and the Commission.

If you need additional information please contact me at (803) 260-6265. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ülis Shee Lee

14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

1982-83 Law Clerk, Honorable Israel M. Augustine, Jr., Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

1983-84 Law Clerk, Honorable C. Tolbert Goolsby, Jr., South Carolina Court of Appeals

1984-89 Associate, McNair Law Firm, P.A., primarily litigation in contract or consumer related issues. Last two years practice labor and employment related litigation.

1989-94 Staff Counsel, S.C. Legislative Council, drafting legislation and amendments for members of the General Assembly in the areas of transportation, crime, corrections and prisons, and education.

1994-1999. Administrative Law Judge presiding over administrative hearing relating to insurance, environmental permitting, alcoholic beverages, wages, taxes, video poker, bingo, appeals from occupational licensing boards, and hearings on regulations promulgated by certain state agencies.

1999-present. Circuit Court Judge. Court of statewide general jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters. Appellate jurisdiction over municipal, magistrate, and probate cases